

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:372
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2000
STATUS OF MBT ARJUN
RASHID ALVI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the `Arjun`, the Main Battle Tank has become an expensive White Elephant;
- (b) if so, the amount spent thereon so far;
- (c) whether the Government propose to fix responsibility for colossal waste and also for compromising defence preparedness of the Nation; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d): The total expenditure on the design and development of MBT Arjun is Rs. 305.60 crore, which is quite justified considering the state-of-the-art technologies developed and incorporated in it. MBT Arjun compares most favourably with much costlier world class contemporary tanks, and the Army has placed orders for it. The question of fixing responsibility does not arise.